

Appl. No. 10/711,257
Amdt. dated August 06, 2007
Reply to Office action of June 01, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. In Fig 2, previously omitted elements, such as the protruding structure and the bevel disclosed in the specification have been added.

5

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

1 page

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Objection of claims 6-20 because of informalities.

5 A correction has been made for claim 6 to overcome the claim informalities and claims 7-20 are dependent on amendment claim 6. Therefore, traverse of claims 6-20 is respectfully requested.

10 **Rejection of Claims 5, 9-11, 14-16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

15 Claims 5, 9, 14 and 20 are canceled and are no longer in need of consideration. Applicant asserts that the protruding structure and the bevel disclosed in claims 10, 11, 15, and 16 are fully supported in [Para 20] of the original disclosure. Additionally, Fig. 2 has been amended to include the protruding structure and the bevel disclosed in the above claims. Applicant asserts that claims 10, 11, 15, and 16 now distinctly point out and claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

20

Rejection of Claims 1-9, 12-14 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moon (2003/0021114).

25 Claims 5, 9, 14, and 17-20 are canceled and are no longer in need of consideration. The amended claim 1 recites "A backlight module, comprising: an external electrode lamp having an external electrode; an inverter for providing power to the external electrode lamp; and a clamp structure for clamping the external electrode, comprising: a first fixing device comprising a first indentation; a second fixing device comprising a second indentation wherein the first and second
30 indentations are used for clamping the external electrode of the external electrode

lamp; a metal strip, connected to the inverter and located between the first and second fixing devices, comprising an electrical junction that is connected to the external electrode for providing power to the external electrode lamp; and a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external electrode lamp and
5 disposed outside the electrical junction, wherein one surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode. The amendment claim 1 characterized in “a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external
10 electrode lamp and disposed outside the electrical junction and one surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode”.

The first fixing device and the second fixing device have a first indentation and a second indentation respectively, in which the first and second indentations are used for
15 clamping the external electrode of the external electrode lamp. A cushion has a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external electrode lamp and disposed outside the electrical junction. The metal strip has an electrical junction, in which one surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode.

20

As stated in Office Action that Moon in Figs. 4A-9B of the cited reference discloses a backlight module including an external electrode lamp, an inverter, and a clamp structure having a first fixing device, a second fixing device, and a metal strip, Moon does not teach one surface of the electrical junction of the metal strip is
25 adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode. Furthermore, Moon also fails to teach that the backlight module includes a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external electrode lamp and is disposed outside the electrical junction.

30 Referring to Fig. 4D of the cited reference, it reveals that one surface of the

electrical junction of the conductive layer 47 is connected to the external electrode 31 of the lamp, as disclosed in the claimed invention. However, the other surface of the electrical junction is connected to an elastic material 55, not adjacent to the first fixing device (either 43a or 41a) of the clamp structure. Additionally, the elastic material
5 55 formed between the conductive layer 47 and the fixing device 43 has an elongated profile, but does not have a shape of a closed ring, as disclosed in the present invention.

In light of the above, applicant asserts that Moon does not teach the backlight
10 module as per the limitation disclosed in the amended claim 1 of the present invention. Reconsideration of the amended claim 1 is respectfully requested. As claims 2-5 are dependent upon claim 1, applicant asserts that if claim 1 is allowable, claims 2-5 should also be allowable.

15 Claim 6 is amended to overcome the above rejection. The amended claim 6 recites "A clamp structure of an external electrode lamp, comprising: a first fixing device comprising a first indentation; a second fixing device comprising a second indentation wherein the first and second indentations are used for clamping an external electrode of the external electrode lamp; a metal strip, connected to the
20 inverter and located between the first and second fixing devices, comprising an electrical junction that is connected to the external electrode for providing power to the external electrode lamp; and a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external electrode lamp and disposed outside the electrical junction, wherein one surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the first fixing
25 device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode."

Similar to the arguments made for claim 1, as stated in the Office Action that Moon in Figs. 4A-9B of the cited reference discloses a clamp structure having a first
30 fixing device, a second fixing device, and a metal strip, Moon does not teach one

surface of the electrical junction of the metal strip is adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode. Besides, Moon fails to teach that the clamp structure includes a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external electrode lamp and
5 disposed outside the electrical junction.

Referring to Fig. 4D of the cited reference, it reveals that one surface of the electrical junction of the conductive layer 47 is connected to the external electrode 31 of the lamp, as disclosed in the claimed invention. However, the other surface of the
10 electrical junction is connected to an elastic material 55 but not adjacent to the first fixing device (either 43a or 41a) of the clamp structure. Additionally, the elastic material 55 formed between the conductive layer 47 and the fixing device 43 has an elongated profile, but does not have a shape of a closed ring, as disclosed in the present invention.

15 In light of the above, applicant asserts that Moon does not teach the clamp structure as per the limitation disclosed in the amended claim 6 of the present invention. Reconsideration of the amended claim 6 is respectfully requested. As claims 7-8 and 12-13 are dependent upon claim 6, applicant asserts that if claim 6 is
20 allowable, claims 7-8 and 12-13 should additionally also be allowable.

25

30

Appl. No. 10/711,257
Amdt. dated August 06, 2007
Reply to Office action of June 01, 2007

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

5



Date: 08/06/2007

Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.
Voice Mail: 302-729-1562
Facsimile: 806-498-6673
e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

10

Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)

15